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UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #538

PROGRAM TITLE

SUSTAINING

ADVERTISER

AGENCY

WRITER

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1943

DAY &amp; DATE

11:30 - 12:00 CMT

TIME

**PRODUCTION NOTES**CHARACTERS

JERRY

MATT

ANDY

JIMMY

CAST

H. HAYS

JO LARKIN

FRED SULLIVAN

FRANK DANE

DICK TURNER

SOUNDREMARKS

MASTER Attached as broadcast:

This copy represents as accurately as possible the program. All alterations made in dramatic and/or musical content are contained herein.

Orchestra Leader

Production Director

Announcer

Agency Producer or Announcer

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1 ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers!

2 MUSIC: THEME

3 ANNOUNCER: Once again, great floods have ravaged heavily populated  
 4 sections of our country, have destroyed lives and  
 5 property, and have caused untold suffering and human  
 6 distress...Contrary to popular belief, floods are not  
 7 in themselves an act of God alone. Disasters such as we  
 8 have just experienced along the Mississippi have their  
 9 beginning in the headwater areas, in the little streams  
 10 where the waters congregate before they unite to form  
 11 the big rivers. And the way man treats those headwater  
 12 areas has a lot to do with how much and how rapidly  
 13 the water runs off. Foresters have for years maintained  
 14 that forests have a mighty important part in flood control.  
 15 Foresters contend that in the control of floods, measures  
 16 on land are as important as measures in the river, and that  
 17 through proper land use, through good forest practices,  
 18 and through close integration of forestry and engineering,  
 19 the severity of floods can be greatly lessened and, under  
 20 many conditions, floods may largely be prevented...Now to  
 21 the Pine Cone National Forest where we find Ranger Jim  
 22 Robbins and his assistant, Jerry Quick, on the way to  
 23 Winding Creek where they've been invited to attend a  
 24 special meeting of the Town Council. Here they are:  
 25 FADE IN SOUND OF RAIN, MOTOR, SQUEAK OF WINDSHIELD WIPER, SUSTAIN





1 JIM: Easy does it, Jerry. We're not in that big a rush...  
 2 Slow down.

3 JERRY: If this blasted rain would only stop. A feller can't make  
 4 any time driving in soup like this...But we were talking  
 5 about this meeting, Jim.

6 JIM: Yeah. I guess it's gonna have something to do with forestry  
 7 seein' as how Andy Goodman sent us those special invitations  
 8 to be on hand.

9 JERRY: You think maybe it's got something to do with the town  
 10 forest - the Winding Creek Watershed?

11 JIM: Could be. We've helped 'em right along with their  
 12 planning and the selective cutting of the big timber up  
 13 there, you know. I don't see, though, what more needs to  
 14 be done about the watershed right now.

15 JERRY: Well, I've heard a crazy rumor that's being nosed around,  
 16 that some of the Council members are all for clear-cutting  
 17 the town forest, Jim.

18 JIM: Huh? What's that?

19 JERRY: Yeah. There's been some talk about selling off all the  
 20 timber in the watershed...you know, while the demand's way  
 21 up and prices are good.

22 JIM: Jerry, you serious?

23 JERRY: I'm just telling you what I heard, Jim.

24 JIM: Well, I'll be doggonned. So that's it, h.h? Of all the  
 25 cock-eyed notions I've ever heard...Step on it, Jerry.  
 Get 'er clear up to thirty-five if you can. Rain or not,  
 I don't want to miss a minute (FADE) of that meeting.





1 PAUSE

2 FADE IN CROWD NOISE, THEN DOWN AND OUT, OCCASIONAL PEE L OF THUNDER OFF

3 ANDY: Well, that's about the size of it, gentlemen. All of us  
4 men here on the Town Council have got sons or brothers,  
5 and some of us have daughters too, in the armed forces.  
6 We're hankering to pitch in with 'em even more than we've  
7 done so far. We figure "going all out in the war job"  
8 means a lot more than increasin' our savings through War  
9 Bonds, and growing Victory Gardens, and doin' air-raid  
10 warden jobs and the like. Uncle Sam says the boys and  
11 girls need more timber. Well, we've got timber - good  
12 timber - up there in our town forest. We've been selling  
13 some of the big trees outa the forest, but now we figure  
14 that at a time like this we oughta be sending every last  
15 stick of it to war...Now, we kinda thought it'd be nice to  
16 have Ranger Jim Robbins and Jerry Quick down here today  
17 to.....

18 MATT: Hold on a minute, Andy...You might as well give Jim Robbins  
19 the whole picture. It don't hurt to point out that selling  
20 off our timber is goin' to help build up the town funds,  
21 too. Speakin' as Town Treasurer, I'd say that was kinda  
22 important. We can get a good price for that timber right  
23 now, don't forget.

24 MURMUR OF VOICES:

25



1           ANDY:           (CHUCKLES) Whenever you pipe up, Matt Singlefield, I  
2  
3                           can't figure whether you're speakin' more as the town  
4                           treasurer or the town banker...But anyhow, you've got a  
5                           good point there, and Jim, we'd like to...well..we'd like  
6                           to get your reaction to this whole business. You and  
7                           Jerry are both welcome to speak up.

8           JIM:           All this kinda puts Jerry and me on the spot, Andy. Looks  
9                           to me like you fellers have about made up your minds to  
10                          clear-out that timber, and anything we might say won't  
11                          matter much.

12          ANDY:           Aw, now, Jim, we don't want you to look at it that way.  
13                           Shucks, you've been a big help all along with those woods  
14                           of ours, and we'll be glad to listen to anything you wanta  
15                           say...I take it our plans don't rest very well with you,  
16                           huh?

17          JIM:           No, Andy, frankly they don't. I appreciate you feeling of  
18                           patriotism of course, and that practical money angle Matt  
19                           mentioned too. But what you fellers are planning to do,  
20                           seein' as how you asked my opinion, what you fellers have  
21                           in mind is a mighty short-sighted thing.

22          MATT:           I told you he'd be against it, Andy. I wondered if it was  
23                           a good thing to have these forestry fellers here.

24          NOISE UP

25          POUNDING OF GAVEL





1     ANDY:       That'll be enough of that, Matt. Jim's our guest today,  
2               don't forget.

3     MATT:       Shucks, I didn't mean any personal offense.

4     JIM:        That's all right. I don't mind Matt...I'm not thinking  
5               about myself, fellers. I'm thinking about a lot of fine,  
6               young growing trees that ought not to be cut before they  
7               mature. And about you men, and your wives, and your  
8               children who enjoy the pure, clean water from the stream  
9               those trees help to keep clear and pure. I want to  
10              remind you gentlemen that that town forest is a watershed  
11              forest. It protects most of the watershed from which  
12              Winding Creek gets its water supply.

13    ANDY:       We've been all through that, Jim. Maybe cutting off that  
14               timber is gonna muddy up our water a little bit, if that's  
15               what you mean. But I reckon it ain't gonna hurt us too  
16               much. Some of our boys have to drink worse sometimes.

17    MATT:       Another thing, Jim. You didn't have no objections about  
18               cutting in those woods to begin with. How come you're  
19               objecting so strenuously now?  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25





1 JERRY: Let me answer that, Jim. I helped in that town sale...  
 2 Look, Mr. Binglefield. We went along with you in cutting  
 3 the big, overmature timber up in the watershed on a  
 4 highly selective basis. The timber we marked for cutting  
 5 was ready for cutting, see? And it could be taken out and  
 6 still leave a good stand of younger trees that'll grow  
 7 more timber and at the same time protect the watershed. Now  
 8 that's altogether different from what you propose to do now.

9 MATT: Yeah, yeah. I know about all that. I'm not arguin' against  
 10 the importance of things agrowin' on a watershed. But aren't  
 11 you forestry fellers worryin' more about that than need be?  
 12 I reckon someday we can plant some more trees up there if  
 13 we need to.

14 ANDY: Yeah, Jim, why couldn't we plant it all up again after the  
 15 war's over?

16 JIM: There's plenty of cut-over land in this country needing  
 17 planting already, Andy, without laying waste any more of  
 18 it..No, fellas, I can't help but feel that if you let all  
 19 that timber be cut you'll be upsetting the natural balance  
 20 so much there's no telling what'll happen in a time like  
 21 this of steady rain, or during a cloudburst like we get  
 22 here sometimes.

23 (SOUND OF THUNDER, OFF)

24 ANDY: It sure has been a-rainin' here today...almost like a  
 25 cloudburst right now.



1 JERRY: That's right, Mr. Goodman. I've seen what a cloudburst  
2 can do where the natural cover of the land is all shot.  
3 In the case I'm thinking about in southern California -  
4 it was forest fires that did what clear cutting here  
5 might do...took off the land all the material that helps  
6 to hold the water, see? Well, there in Los Angeles County  
7 back in 1933, they had one of the most tragic and destructive  
8 single floods they'd ever had...34 people were swept to death,  
9 more than 400 homes destroyed and all. Twelve inches of  
10 rain fell in 56 hours. It rained like that all over the  
11 mountain, but it was out of the watershed canyon that had  
12 burned over a few months before that the big flood came.

13 MATT: Yeah, but that was in Southern California, not here in  
14 Winding Creek County...Besides, are we going to stay behind  
15 Willow Glenn in this business? They cut all their timber  
16 last year and they've been talking mighty proud about it  
17 ever since. And it hasn't bothered their water supply any  
18 that I've heard about, either. I'm surprised you fellers  
19 don't drag in this Mississippi flood they've just been  
20 having in the midwest. I guess that was plenty bad, but,  
21 shucks, that can't happen here.

22 ANDY: What about that, Jim? I mean about Willow Glenn? They  
23 haven't had any trouble since they sold off all their  
24 timber.  
25







1 JIM: They cut off their timber down there around Willow Glenn  
 2 before I even knew about it. If I'd had the chance I'd  
 3 have protested as much as I'm protesting here today. What  
 4 you fellers don't seem to realize that it's because of  
 5 misuse of land in places like this - yeah, here in the  
 6 Winding Creek watershed and around Willow Glenn - that  
 7 rivers like the Mississippi get much of their awful  
 8 power to go on their terrible rampages. As for Willow  
 9 Glenn, well, I'm not so sure trouble won't catch up with  
 10 them yet. I say it's been building up all the time...it  
 11 won't take many storms like this one (THUNDER) we're  
 12 havin' today to slide part of the mountain of theirs down  
 13 on their heads or to bring their river above flood stage  
 14 ....I know the silt is piling up fast in their reservoir.  
 15 I've seen it.

16 MATT: Don't you Councilmen let Jim Robbins scare you with that  
 17 talk like that. We've got our patriotic duty to do here,  
 18 besides our duty to the town treasury, and we ought to get  
 19 on with the voting to make it all official, Mr. Chairman.

20 ANDY: I guess Matt's right, Jim. I'm sorry you won't go along  
 21 with us in this matter, but if there's nothing else you wanta  
 22 say I reckon we better go ahead and vote on it...  
 23  
 24  
 25



1 JIM: Only one thing more I gotta say, Andy. Seems to me I  
 2 recollect you men bought up all that watershed land and  
 3 timber years ago to safeguard this town's water supply.  
 4 With the right kind of forestry management you can keep  
 5 that watershed protected, and at the same time realize a  
 6 small but steady return year after year from the sale of  
 7 mature timber. If you strip off all the timber now, you  
 8 sacrifice future returns for a little more money now,  
 9 and you jeopardize our future water supply. That's something  
 10 to think about, men, when you vote to clear-out your watershed.  
 11 I guess that's all. I reckon we better go, Jerry. This  
 12 is one voting session I don't want to sit in on....

13 ANDY: I understand, Jim. We appreciate your coming down here just  
 14 the same, and....

15 SOUND FIRE GONG OFF, REPEAT URGENTLY THROUGH JIMMY'S ENTRANCE, THEN OUT

16 JERRY: Say, that's the town alarm...something's wrong....

17 JIM: Yeah, must be a fire somewhere in town....

18 MATT: (CHUCKLING) I'm surprised Jim Robbins here didn't say a  
 19 flood...Missed a good chance there.

20 ANDY: I don't think that's funny, Matt. We better go find out  
 21 what the trouble is...

22 JERRY: Wait...Somebody's coming...Running up the hall...(SOUND OF  
 23 RUNNING FEET) It's Jimmy...Little Jimmy Calhoun.

24 JIMMY: (COMING ON, BREATHELESS) Mr. Goodman...Mr. Goodman..  
 25





1     ANDY:       Here I am, Jimmy. Take it easy, Son! Go on, breathe  
2                deep now, and tell us what's wrong.

3     JIMMY:      (TAKES DEEP BREATH) Well, they told me down at the  
4                telephone office I'd find you here...They just got a call  
5                for help from Willow Glenn and...and they want you and all  
6                the men here to get right on down there...

7     JIM:        Did they tell you what the trouble is at Willow Glenn,  
8                Jimmy?

9     JIMMY:      Something about a bad storm, Mr. Robbins, a cloud busting  
10                or something like that, and the spillway at the reservior  
11                flowin' over and they're afraid the dam won't hold and they  
12                need help and....

13    MATT:       Now, wait a minute, young feller. This isn't a joke, is  
14                it? You sure somebody...maybe somebody right here, didn't  
15                put you up to this?

16    JIMMY:      Oh, no sir! Cross my heart...they sent me here and..and  
17                they want you to hurry.

18    JIM:        Lay off the boy, Matt Singlefield. This is no joke!..The  
19                thing that's happened is just what I was afraid all along  
20                was goin' to happen down there at Willow Glenn...The reservoir  
21                been filling up with silt and mud like I said ever since they  
22                took all that cover of trees off the watershed..It only  
23                needed a heavy storm like they must 've had today to start  
24                the water over the spillway. With no ground cover that's  
25                all it takes sometime, just a flash storm.....





1 JERRY: Yeah, and if that dam goes out it's gonna flood the town.  
 2 We better get going, Jim, if we're going to be any help  
 3 to those Willow Glen folks...  
 4 ANDY: Wait a minute, Jerry, You too, Jim...  
 5 MATT: Golly, I wouldn't a believed it. No sir, not in a million  
 6 years. I'm sorry, Jim dadblamed sorry I've been baiting  
 7 you like I have.  
 8 ANDY: Jim, I reckon all you got to do is look at the faces of  
 9 these men here to know we're all sorry...  
 10 JIM: We better hustle along, like Jerry says, if we're going to  
 11 help out at Willow Glen, Andy...  
 12 ANDY: We're all a-goin'...But just let me get this off my chest  
 13 first, Jim...  
 14 JIM: I'm listenin'...  
 15 ANDY: It's a funny thing about folks, Jim. They read and hear  
 16 about the awful things that are happening all over the  
 17 world but until the same thing touches 'em directly or  
 18 comes mighty close...like this Willow Glen trouble now -  
 19 it don't mean very much, does it?  
 20 JIM: Sure, that's right as rain, Andy, but still....  
 21 ANDY: Let me finish, Jim...Jim, there isn't a man here right  
 22 now who doesn't realize that what's happening down there  
 23 in Willow Glen could just as easy happen here...We can see  
 24 that now.  
 25 MATT: Yes, that's right, Jim.



1     ANDY:           It took something like this - happening close by - to  
2                    prove it. You were right, Jim. And we were wrong, dead  
3                    wrong...(AGREEMENT FROM CROWD) So I reckon we can settle  
4                    this town watershed business right now. You needn't  
5                    worry, Jim. The Winding Creek Watershed won't be clear-cut  
6                    Not a tree will come down up there unless it can be cut  
7                    without hurtin' the rest of the stand, and without hurtin'  
8                    the watershed. Are we Agreed on that gentlemen?

9     AGREEMENT FROM CROWD

10    JIM:            That's fine, Andy. And I think you'll find in the long  
11                    run that your wives and youngsters will be kinda proud of  
12                    you men on the Town Council for making that decision...  
13                    Now, seein' as how that's settled, we ought to be on our  
14                    way to Willow Glen, huh?

15    ANDY:           Yes sir....(POUNDING GAVEL) Gentlemen, all business bein'  
16                    transacted favorable to everybody (YEAS FROM ALL) I call  
17                    this special meeting of the Town Council to a close....

18    VOICES UP AND FADE OUT

19    MUSICAL FINALE

20    ANNOUNCER:    Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each week during  
21                    the National Farm and Home Hour with the cooperation of  
22                    the Forest Service, United States Department of  
23                    Agriculture.....

25    sjb:4:45  
6/7/43

(BERGOTTEN)



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